

**Frequently Asked Questions Regarding
Implementation of the County Stormwater Ordinance
At Nurseries, Greenhouses and other Agricultural Type Activities**

1. **What is the County Stormwater Ordinance?** The Stormwater Ordinance provides legal authority for County staff to implement the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Stormwater Permit. The *purpose* of the ordinance is to protect and improve water quality, to cause the use of management practices by the County and its citizens that will reduce the adverse effects of polluted runoff discharges, to ensure the use of stormwater as a resource and to ensure the county is compliant with applicable state and federal laws.
2. **What does the Stormwater Ordinance do?** To achieve the purposes noted above, the ordinance:
 - Prohibits polluted non-stormwater discharges to the stormwater conveyance system.
 - Establishes minimum requirements for managing stormwater including source control.
 - Establishes requirements for developments to reduce stormwater pollution and erosion and to protect existing water-dependant habitats.
3. **What types of facilities and activities are subject to the requirements of the Ordinance?** The ordinance contains requirements for many types of land uses and activities. There are specific requirements for municipal facilities, commercial facilities (including nurseries and greenhouses), industrial facilities, new development, existing development, and residential areas.
4. **Who will enforce the Ordinance?** The County Ordinance only applies to land uses and activities in the unincorporated area. This generally means the unincorporated portion of the county that lies within the boundaries of the County Water Authority. County staff will be responsible for enforcing the ordinance within this geographic area. Staff from the County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM) will enforce the ordinance at Nurseries and Greenhouses, Pest Control Businesses, Golf Courses, Cemeteries, Zoos and Botanical Gardens.
5. **What if I'm located in a city?** The permit requires each of the 18 Cities, the County and the Port District to adopt ordinances or similar documents containing minimum Best Management Practices. These BMP's will require property operators and others to achieve the water quality objectives contained within the RWQCB's permit. If you are not in the unincorporated area, you should check with the city or cities where you operate your business regarding their ordinance(s). Current plans are for each city to have enforcement staff that will enforce the requirements of their ordinance(s). If you have businesses in multiple cities you may be subject to different requirements within each jurisdiction.
6. **Will there be fees associated with this program?** Yes. Fees for those facilities where the County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures will be inspecting include an annual registration fee of \$100 for each business.

This registration fee would fund both training and *outreach* efforts. The registration fee will be collected through an annual billing that will be mailed to each business. There will also an inspection fee of \$60 per hour and a reinspection fee of \$90 per hour. The inspection fees will be collected at the time of the inspection. Inspection times will vary depending upon the characteristics of the business, such as acreage, and the extent to which Best Management Practices have been implemented.

7. **What type of Information will be provided through the outreach program?** Speakers from the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM) will provide presentations to business and trade associations and conduct training for employees on agricultural runoff and stormwater management. AWM will also construct a web page to provide regulatory information and compliance assistance. The department wants this to be an interactive process that facilitates the sharing of information and compliance strategies between different types of businesses with the same or similar issues, i.e. parking lot runoff, vehicle maintenance areas, roof top runoff. AWM staff will also provide articles for industry trade publications and newsletters.
8. **How can I get more information now?** You can view and download the County's Ordinance by going to:

http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/model_ordinance.html

and the RWQCB's Stormwater Permit is posted at:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9>

You can also call Supervising Agricultural Inspector, Paul Davy at 858-694-3122 or Senior Inspector David Fritz at 858-694-2239 or email them at paul.davy@sdcounty.ca.gov or david.fritz@sdcounty.ca.gov Paul can put you on an email outreach distribution list and you will receive periodic updates on agricultural runoff and stormwater management compliance strategies. Also, you can visit your city's web site and look for their ordinance and related information.

9. Acronyms

- BMP = Best Management Practices
- P2 = Pollution Prevention
- JURMP = Jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Plan
- TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load